

TOWN OF AMHERST
Heritage Commission

January 11, 2024

APPROVED

In attendance: Will Ludt, Conor Frain, Tom Grella – Board of Selectmen Ex-Officio, John Bement, Lisa Montesanto, Brenda Perry, Linda Zuerndorfer, and Gordon Zuerndorfer

1. Roll Call to Order

Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

2. “Throwback Thursday”- Amherst Heritage

Will Ludt started off the “Throwback Thursday” discussion by asking the Commission if the number 264 meant anything to them. Lisa Montesanto responded that Thursday, January 18, 2024, will be the 264th anniversary of the founding of Amherst in 1760. To honor this celebration, the Board of Selectmen are having a “Birthday Party” that date from 4:00PM-5:00PM, in the Town Hall Barbara Landry Conference Room. All people of the Town are invited to attend. Will Ludt stated that it would be a good thing to attend and to participate in.

3. “America 250” Meeting on 25 January 2024

Will Ludt explained that there will be a meeting hosted by the Heritage Commission on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at the Town Library from 5:30PM-6:45PM regarding initial planning for celebrating the America 250 nationwide celebration on July 4, 2026. Like-minded organizations, such as the Heritage Commission, are invited to send two representatives to the meeting. The meeting will discuss two agenda items: 1) information regarding what America 250 is and the expectations of organization activities leading up to the celebration, 2) to inform people that Amherst currently has no plaques or monument structures celebrating Amherst citizens who participated in the Revolutionary War. The Town should have a plaque or small monument to commemorate and honor citizens. Brenda Perry and Will Ludt are the action officers for this project.

4. Vonderosa Archaeology Report- County and Upham Roads

Will Ludt explained that the Commission received an archaeological report from the Planning Board which discusses the historic resources within the footprint of the proposed development. He highlighted that pages 29-30 discusses that the possible Native American artifact is not really an artifact. Will Ludt made it clear that the report contains confidential information and is not for public distribution.

5. Heritage Commission Budget Review for 2024-2025 (1 July 2024-30 June 2025)

The Commission reviewed its proposed budget for 2024-2025. The budget reflects a total increase of \$1,100 from the 2023-2024 budget. Much of the increase comes from a proposal in the budget for an outside hire for asbestos abatement for the Cooperage.

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6. Baboosic Lake B&M Rail Stop- Walnut Hill Road and the Embankment Road Update

Will Ludt explained that he briefed the Amherst Conservation Commission on this project on January 10, 2024. For the project to go forward, an application to NHDES needs to be prepared, because the project, as presented, does not meet State Shoreland requirements. Will Ludt stated that he has the necessary documents in hand to complete the application. After approval from the State, the Commission will need to seek approval from the Town by submitting an application to the Community Development Office. This may eventually need to go before the Planning Board for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process.

7. Minutes: 20 December 2023

**Conor Frain moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 20, 2023, as presented. Seconded by John Bement.
Vote: 7-0-0.**

**Conor Frain moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm. Seconded by Brenda Perry.
Vote: 7-0-0.**

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*

Minutes approved: February 8, 2024